

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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46

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 EB-03 IGA-01 PRS-01 PM-03 SP-02 H-01 SAM-01

SAB-01 /044 W

----- 124177

P 191536Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3014

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1056

LIMDIS

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SY, US

SUBJECT: AID FOR SYRIA

REF: A. JERUSALEM 0523 (SECTO 363); B. STATE 61183;

C. DAMASCUS 1032

1. VERY PLEASED TO LEARN THAT ENTIRE MIDDLE EAST PACKAGE REMAINS INTACT INCLUDING \$100 MILLION FOR SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FUND. I HAVE SO INFORMED DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HAYDAR TODAY.

2. I ALSO CALLED THIS MORNING ON PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISOR DAOUDI TO SET RECORD STRAIGHT AND TOLD HIM OF SECRETARY'S PERSONAL INTERVENTION TO ENSURE RETENTION OF FULL AMOUNT AUTHORIZED IN AID FOR SYRIA. ASKED DAOUDI TO BRING THIS TO PRESIDENT ASAD'S ATTENTION AND HE PROMISED TO DO SO LATER TODAY.

3. DAOUDI NOTED HE WAS PLEASED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT, COMMENTING SARG HAD DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO REACT TO
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PRESS REPORTS THAT AID FUNDS HAD BEEN SLASHED UNLESS SO

INFORMED OFFICIALLY THROUGH EMBASSY. HE ADDED QUIETLY THAT HE HOPED WE REALIZED HOW AWKWARD IT WAS FOR SARG WHEN U.S. POLITICAL FIGURES PUBLICLY DISCUSSED AID FOR SYRIA ALTERNATIVELY AS (A) THE WAY TO BUY SYRIAN SILENCE FOR A SEPARATE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DEAL; (B) THE WAY TO ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF SYRIAN JEWS; OR, AS ON LAST MONDAY, (C) ANNOUNCED IT SHOULD BE VIRTUALLY TOTALLY ABOLISHED, ALL WITHOUT ANY PRIOR CONSULTATION BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND WASHINGTON. SAID I UNDERSTOOD HIS POSITION. REMINDED HIM I HAD NEVER SUGGESTED DEVELOPING A NEW RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DAMASCUS AND WASHINGTON WOULD BE FREE OF HEAD-ACHES.
MURPHY

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